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*CIA/ONE/STAFF MEM/5-61*

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

25 January 1961

STAFF MEMORANDUM NO. 5-61 (Internal O/NE Working Paper - CIA  
Distribution Only)

SUBJECT: 1961 - Another Year of Crisis for Berlin

1. The signing of a new interzonal trade agreement between the Federal Republic and the GDR at the end of December marks the end of another phase in the Communist post-war efforts to isolate and absorb West Berlin into the Bloc. This phase began in September 1960 when the GDR issued new restrictive regulations designed to increase its authority to control the flow of civilian personnel and goods across the east-west sector boundaries of Berlin as well as between West Berlin and the Federal Republic. In retaliation, Chancellor Adenauer, acting partly out of exasperation but also because he and other Bonn officials believed that the Americans expected a demonstrative West German response to this latest evidence of GDR "salami tactics," announced that the interzonal trade agreement which was due to expire on 31 December would not be renewed unless the GDR formally withdrew the measures

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